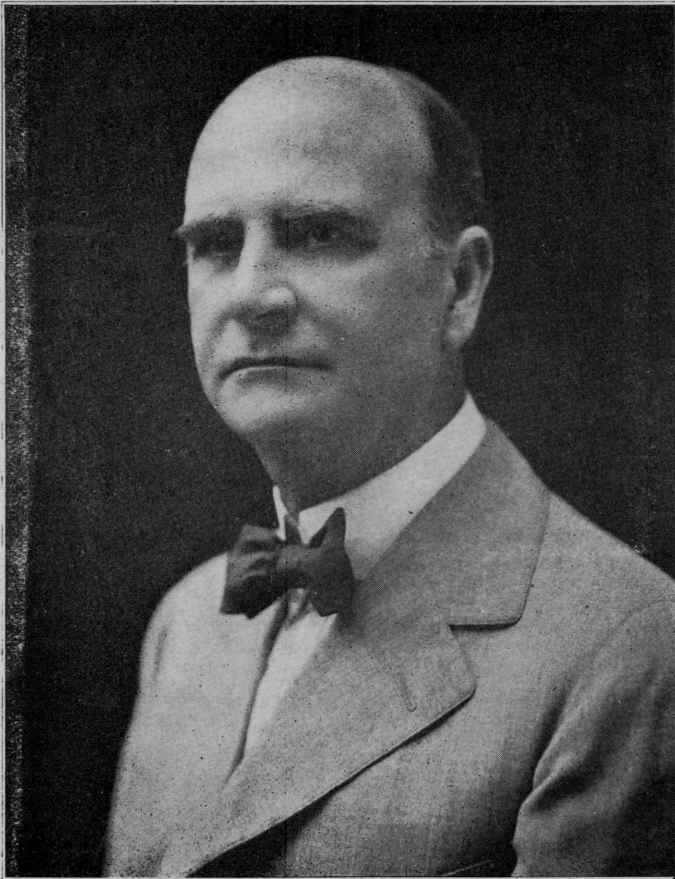


THE AUBURN ALUMNUS

Volume 5, Number 4

December, 1916



FRANCIS BARTOW DILLARD, '79.

Loyal Member of "The Old Guard", Native of Auburn.
One of a number of Auburn men who have contributed to
the upbuilding of the Great West.

THE AUBURN ALUMNUS

Published once each month during the college session and once in the summer for the graduates and former students of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute under the auspices of the Auburn Alumni Association.

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There are many problems connected with athletics which are as yet unsettled. For two of these Dean Briggs, in a recent address before the National Collegiate Athletic Association, points out solutions worth noting:

"There is no more reason why the teacher of football should curse his pupils than why the teacher of civics should curse his, who may be quite as exasperating; and there is every reason why the leader, whose manners and conduct are more catching than are those of others, should lead straight whether on or off the field.

"Despite the principle of supply and demand there may be reasons why the athletic coach should not have three times as much salary as the professor of Greek, but there is no inherent reason why he should not hold a position of equal dignity. He can do more good than a professor of Greek and a great deal more harm. Thus faculty control in athletics should be like faculty control in Latin or economics or chemistry—not in intervention, but in that power of adjustment in common interests which may fitly be exercised over a department of physical education.

"Faculty control in the best sense means taking the coaches into the faculty team."

While our conditions are not ideal, Auburn has clung to high standards in athletics; and our coach is really and truly a member of the faculty who wields a strong influence for good behavior among the students.

WRITE US A LETTER ABOUT YOUR LITERARY SOCIETY EXPERIENCE.

Professor Ross' address before the Wirt Literary Society on the anniversary of the birth of William Wirt, which is given on another page may recall some pleasant recollections for the members of the Old Guard. The editor wishes to collect all the facts about the literary societies before the nineties that it is possible to get. If this very interesting address calls up other memories or even other details or instances for you, we shall be greatly obliged if you will write them out immediately for us. No incident or recollection, however seemingly insignificant, can be of too little value to give in a letter to us. Later it is hoped that a sketch of these societies may appear in this paper.

But this is not the chief aim in our getting this material. We are using all letters written to us on this subject to inspire fresh interest in the work of these student organizations. The names of leaders and participants in public contests, laughable incidents, plans of work, description of halls, of pins or badges, photographs, clipping of news in old newspapers, or information as to where this or other information may be obtained will be gladly welcomed. We are very grateful for the kind letters of many of the older students and for Prof. Ross' kind permission to print this stenographic report of his address.

REUNIONS IN JUNE.

(1) The Old Guard, which consists of all former students who will have been out of college twenty-five years or more in June, 1917.

(2) All classes whose numerals end in 2's or 7's; for instance, 1872, 1877, 1882, 1887, etc.

Class secretaries and others interested in large reunions for their classes should arouse any sleeping enthusiasm in these home-comings by personal interviews and endless correspondence. It is suggested that each class choose a badge or some uniform wearing apparel, like farm hats, striped serge or palm beach coats, walking canes, red neckties, or something else that will identify all stragglers and publish to visitors the success of the reunions.



GOVERNOR HENDERSON AND THE 1916 TIGERS.
From Photo Taken in Front of State Capitol.

VARSITY MEMBERS 1916 FOOTBALL
SQUAD.

Name—Position	Height	Age	Wt.
Robinson, center	5:10	20	164
Campbell, guard	5:10	22	182
Fricke, guard	6:00	21	196
Bonner, M. L., tackle	6:00	21	185
Sample, tackle	5:9	20	175
Wynne, tackle	5:9	22	172
Jones, C., end	5:9	19	160
Ducote, end	5:10	19	179
Goodwin, center	5:8	20	183
Burns, end	5:9	19	156
Bonner, H., guard	5:11	20	170
Beard, tackle	5:9	21	175
Hairston, quarter	5:8	22	165
Steed, halfback	6:1	21	175
Prendergast, halfback	5:11	20	172
Rickenbaker, fullback	5:11	21	155
Revington, fullback	5:9	19	152
Stickney, fullback	5:8	20	158
Scott, halfback	5:7	19	175
Danahue, halfback	5:3	20	123
Williamson, end	5:7	19	146
Jones, Pat, halfback	5:4	21	140
Nall, fullback	5:3	20	115
Wren, fullback	6:1	20	145

Above we give some statistics on the 1916 football men. While the team was not as brilliant as some teams of the past, and while the ranking is the lowest that an Auburn team has accepted in eight years, still the team has not been without honor. As a fighting aggregation it will

probably rank as one of the Tiger's greatest. Of the three big games, two were lost. The University of Georgia eleven was defeated in a hard fought game, but games were lost to Vanderbilt and Georgia Tech.

The Vanderbilt game should have been won by Auburn and the score should have been much larger than the 9-7 score by which it appeared at one time that she would win. But in the last few minutes the tide turned. Two fumbles, a bad punt, and defective defensive work allowed the Commodores to slip over a forward pass and the game was gone.

The Tech game was an entirely different affair. Auburn entered the game in a poor condition mentally and physically. Both tackles were out of shape, Wynne being unable to enter the game, and Sample being in such poor condition that he was not able to last. With the team realizing that it had lost its best game the morale was not right for as stiff an opponent as Tech proved to be. This is not saying that Auburn could have defeated Tech. Playing as she did Thanksgiving Tech could probably defeat Auburn at her best by ten points, but with Tech going at top form and Auburn off color the result was little short of annihilation.

But here's to the team of 1916! They fought hard and clean though they lost. Another year will bring—another football season.

**AUBURN ANNOUNCES FOOTBALL SCHEDULE FOR 1917.
VANDERBILT REFUSES PLACE—UNIVERSITY
OF TENNESSEE TAKES BIRMINGHAM
DATE. OTHER OPPONENTS
THE SAME AS 1916.**

Oct. 6.—Mercer University at Auburn.
Oct. 13.—Howard College at Auburn.
Oct. 19.—Clemson College at Clemson, S. C.
Oct. 27.—Mississippi A. & M., at Birmingham, Ala.
Nov. 3.—University of Georgia at Columbus, Ga.
Nov. 10.—University of Florida at Auburn.
Nov. 17.—University of Tennessee at Birmingham, Ala.
Nov. 29.—Georgia Tech at Atlanta, Ga.

**TENNESSEE ACCEPTS VANDERBILT'S
DATE ON AUBURN SCHEDULE,
NOV. 17th.**

When the schedules of Southern teams were published in the press and it was noted that Vanderbilt was not on Auburn's schedule, and the date, Nov. 17th, in Birmingham, Ala., would be filled by the University of Tennessee team, the public showed an interest in learning the particulars concerning the breach.

A number of papers carried articles dealing with the situations which arose in the conferences between Manager Brown, of Vanderbilt, and Manager Bragg, of Auburn, and the following article is clipped from the Montgomery Advertiser, where it appeared under the heading "Tennessee Gets Vandys Date On Auburn's Schedule":

"Football fans throughout the South are interested in the announcement that Vanderbilt University has declined a place on Auburn's schedule for the Birmingham date, November 17, 1917, and that this date will be filled by the strong University of Tennessee eleven. The Auburn-Vanderbilt game in Birmingham had grown to be the biggest annual event in the South and football enthusiasts are interested in the facts that led to this change in Auburn's schedule.

"Football followers will remember that it was only with considerable effort that Vanderbilt was induced to meet Auburn in Birmingham. Vanderbilt continuously insisted that the game should be played on the Commodore's campus. The football public demanded that Vanderbilt meet Auburn on some neutral field and Vanderbilt alumni in the Birmingham territory insisted that the game be played in Birmingham in November, 1912.

"The closeness of the game, the enthusiasm with which Vanderbilt and Auburn alumni worked to make the game a success, and the enormous crowd which attended satisfied Vanderbilt au-

thorities that Birmingham was the logical place for the game and an understanding was reached whereby Auburn should each year meet Vanderbilt in Birmingham on the Saturday nearest the middle of November.

Gate Receipts as High as \$10,000

"The games grew in interest and enthusiasm because of their closeness; paid attendance ranged from \$8,500 to \$10,000 despite the fact that games were played in the rain, and the date was regarded as the day of the "football classic of the South." The result in attendance and interest was gratifying to Auburn and Vanderbilt alumni and athletic authorities.

"On the night of November 17, 1916, representatives of Auburn and Vanderbilt met in Birmingham and agreed that the date of November 17, 1917 should be kept open by both Vanderbilt and Auburn as the date for the Auburn-Vanderbilt game in Birmingham. Vanderbilt authorities made it known that they would play Auburn provided they were not coerced into the adoption of the one year rule by the action of the Southern conference. Auburn assured Vanderbilt that it had never been her idea or desire to coerce any college into the adoption of any principle. It was then agreed by representatives of Auburn and Vanderbilt that the date in Birmingham be held open until after the Charleston meetings.

Auburn Authorities Surprised

"Auburn authorities were greatly surprised to learn on the day following that an attempt had been made by Vanderbilt adherents to rent Rickwood Park for November 17, 1917. The park authorities declined to grant the request of Vanderbilt and declared that they would give Auburn an option on the park for that date.

"When the Southern Conference met in Charleston no action was taken that Vanderbilt could object to as the conference voted to allow conference teams to play Non-Conference, S. I. A. A. teams

under S. I. A. A. rules. With the close of the meetings Auburn authorities approached Vanderbilt concerning final arrangements for the Vanderbilt-Auburn game in 1917. It was then that Vanderbilt imposed the condition that Auburn come to Nashville. Auburn could not consider giving up her November date in Birmingham. Her representatives explained to Vanderbilt that it was Auburn's desire to give to the people of Birmingham the best possible game in November, that they were due the people of Birmingham as much.

Only November Date in Alabama

"Auburn explained that she was absolutely due this game to her supporters, as it is the only November game played by Auburn in the State of Alabama (both the Tech and Georgia games being played in Georgia) and that they were due the game to the city of Birmingham which had supported the game so enthusiastically. It was shown that under the circumstances Auburn could not consider leaving Birmingham on November 17, 1917 to meet any team.

Vanderbilt insisted that Auburn come to Nashville and, as Auburn could not meet this eleventh hour proposal, the game fell through. An effort was at once put forth to land the strongest possible team for the date in Birmingham. Auburn was most fortunate in securing the University of Tennessee eleven for the

Birmingham date, November 17.

"Tennessee has been one of the leading teams in the South for several years, going through the seasons of 1914 and 1916 without suffering a defeat. It is thought that this game will satisfy the desire of the sporting public of Alabama."

MORGAN BLAKE CRITICIZES VANDERBILT'S ACTION.

The press of the South was almost unanimous in expressing the regrets of sport loving people of the South at the loss of the Auburn-Vanderbilt game.

Morgan Blake, an alumnus of Vanderbilt, writing for the Atlanta Journal, comments as follows:

"The action of Vanderbilt in dropping the Auburn game was a small piece of business in our estimation and its schedule is a very weak one, despite the Chicago game.

"Among the stalwart foes the Commodores will meet in Nashville next year are Transylvania and Howard College, both of which Tech High School could lick easily. It was believed at one time that Vanderbilt might arrange a game with Georgia, but there was nothing doing. Vanderbilt faces the season without a battle with a single member of the Big Four of the S. I. A. A."

THE FOOTBALL SEASON IN THE SOUTH.

Heisman's Ranking S. I. A. A. Teams.

1. Georgia Tech.
2. University of Tennessee.
3. Vanderbilt University.
4. Auburn.
5. University of Georgia.
6. Tied: Tulane, Alabama, Sewanee, L. S. U., Kentucky State.
11. Tied: Miss. A. & M., Mississippi College, Citadel.
14. Tied: Florida and Transylvania.
16. Chattanooga.
17. Tied: Clemson and University of Mississippi.
19. Birmingham College.
20. Furman.
21. South Carolina.
22. Howard College.
23. Wofford.
24. Mercer University.

THE FOOTBALL SEASON OF 1916.

The football season just passed probably contained more surprises and complete reversals of form on the part of championship contenders than any season in recent history. The leading teams of the South were unquestionably Georgia Tech, Vanderbilt, Tennessee and Auburn, and it looked as if the champion-

ship fight would narrow down to Auburn, Vanderbilt and Georgia Tech. Then Tennessee defeated Vanderbilt, and the Commodores rallied the following week and defeated Auburn 20-9 in a game which everyone thought would go to Auburn by a score of 9-7 until the last few minutes of play.

A week later it appeared as if the fight lay between Tennessee and Georgia Tech. But when the final returns were in Thanksgiving night there were few who did not doff their hats to the Yellow Jackets as the Champions of Dixie—for Tech over whelmingly defeated Auburn, and Tennessee was held to a tie by Kentucky State.

The All-Southern selections were many and varied. All the critics took occasion to compliment the work of Robinson of Auburn, and he was practically an unanimous choice for center. Ducote was another Auburn man who came in for considerable praise for his work, and though shifted often he was awarded a place at right end on the composite all-Southern. Several Auburn men (Hairston, Prendergast, Sample, Steed, Campbell, Revington and C. Jones) came in for honorable mention.

"Rabbit" Curry, of Vanderbilt, and

Strupper, of Tech, were two men who were unanimous choices for backfield positions. Lowe and Lang, of Tennessee and Tech, were chosen as guards by almost everyone, and Vowell, who covered end for the "Volunteers" was another man who earned general recognition.

Composite All-Southern.

Position	Player	College
Center	Robinson	Auburn
Left guard	Lowe	U. of Tenn.
Right guard	Lang	Georgia Tech
Left tackle	Cody	Vanderbilt
Right tackle	Carpenter	Georgia Tech
Left end	G. Vowell	U. of Tenn.
Quarterback	Curry	Vanderbilt
Left half	Strupper	Georgia Tech
Right half	Rodes	Kentucky State
Full back	Spence	Georgia Tech

SOUTHERN PLAYERS RECEIVE RECOGNITION.

There has been much satisfaction expressed at the more liberal attitude which authoritative writers in the East have assumed in commenting on Southern players and coaches, and in giving Southern contests their share of attention in the press of the North and East.

Hon. Parke H. Davis in his compilation of feature gridiron events of the 1916 football season included in his article for the New York Herald a rather graphic description of the goal from field which Ducote scored against Georgia.

Gridiron Season Reveals Many Heroes of Crucial Games.

Come, companions of the gridiron, and attend a final, novel and colossal football spectacle arranged by the New York Herald. You shall see at one time all of the heroes of football America, North, South, East and West, re-enact the feats by which they have won a hundred or more great, close and crucial games this autumn, and you shall sit in the most capacious coliseum, a sport loving public has known—the columns of the Herald.

Our first game will be in the city of Columbus, down in Georgia. It is Saturday morning, early in November, and a mighty throng is surging up and down the streets. It is the city's first inter-collegiate football game and the contenders are Alabama "Poly," known in the South from the city in which the institute is located as "Auburn," and the University of Georgia. The local editor of the Columbus Ledger, viewing the crowd from his window, says: "Well, football certainly beats four circuses for people." The battle is on. Auburn, with players strong, skilled and experienced, instantly assumes the aggressive and beats Georgia backward. But there is grit in

those fellows from Athens, and drive upon drive of the Alabamians shatters to fragments upon Georgia's 10 and 5 yard lines, the powerful punter Donnelly of Georgia, each time sending his 55 and 60 yard spirals up the field. The first quarter comes and goes, the second follows, and the half terminates without a score.

The game reopens, the third quarter closes, and still no score. The fourth period begins, wages and wanes, and the spectators say to one another, "No score today." Georgia has just made a touch-back and Donnelly punts out. Hairston catches the ball and runs back ten yards. Ducote, Prendergast and Revington, Auburn's backs, leap against Georgia's line, but fall back without a gain. All downs but one are exhausted. Ducote falls back to try for a goal from the field. Hairston removes his leather helmet and places it upon the ground. He creases the top of the helmet and sights it for the goal.

Spectators curiously watch the proceedings. Suddenly the ball is passed. Hairston receives it, places it on the helmet, which all suddenly see is to serve as a mechanical tee. Ducote leaps forward, kicks the ball from the top of the helmet and drives it straight as an arrow for Georgia's crossbar, over which it sails evenly between the posts. The referee, Mr. Barry, waves his hands to indicate a goal.

The battle soon ends, and the score board flashes the final figure: Auburn, 3; Georgia, 0.

ALL ALABAMA ELEVEN.

Chosen by Dr. J. B. Longwell, Athletic Director of Howard College.

(Auburn and the University were left out on purpose.)

Center (1) Sessions (Birmingham.)

(2) Strickland (Howard.)

(3) Ratterman (Spring Hill.)

Left Guard Gibson (Howard.)

Right Guard (1) Quarles (Greensboro.)

(2) Bailey (Birmingham.)

Right Tackle Wilkie (Marion Institute.)

Left Tackle (1) Argo (Marion Institute.)

(2) Haynes (Howard.)

Right End Neill (Birmingham.)

Left End (1) Ed Duke (Howard.)

(2) Norton (Birmingham.)

(3) A. Duke (Howard.)

Quarterback (1) O'Dowd (Spring Hill)

Captain.

(2) Wingo (Marion.)

Right Halfback Gillam (Birmingham.)

Left Halfback (1) Acton (Howard.)

(2) Gibson (Howard.)

(3) Lewis (Birmingham.)

Fullback (1) Moulton (Spring Hill.)

(2) Barber (Howard.)

(3) Warren (Birmingham.)

(4) Reeves (Ala. Pres. Col.)

(5) Hughes (Ala. Pres. Col.)

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND SOUTHERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE.

The 1916 meetings were held in Charleston, on Dec. 8 and 9. Professors Thomas Bragg and J. B. Lovelace represented Auburn.

The conference decided that the one-year residence rule should be enforced strictly in inter-conference games; but, that in games with members of the S. I. A. A. not enforcing the rule freshmen may play. The S. I. A. A. voted the one-year rule down again this year.

The summer baseball rules of the S. I. A. A. were amended to read as follows:

"Part One—A student after he has been in college one full year and has met the scholarship requirements of said institution for athletic eligibility, may play summer baseball on any team he may elect, provided said team is not a member of a league operating under the terms of the so-called national agreement.

"Part Two—A student who has not been in college one full year or who has not met the above scholarship requirements shall be allowed to play on no other team than his home team and then only for his actual expenses, which shall be paid only by the manager of the team. His home team shall be defined as any amateur team within the county where at the time of playing he has had legal residence for at least one year and is still a resident."

The officers of the S. A. C. elected for the ensuing year are as follows: Professor Thomas Bragg, of Auburn, President; Professor E. P. Frost, of the University of Tennessee, Vice-President; and Professor H. M. Randle, of Georgia School of Technology, Secretary.

The S. I. A. A. officers are as follows: President, B. M. Walker, Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College; vice-presidents, first district, North and South Carolina, F. H. H. Calhoun, Clemson College; second district, Georgia, Alabama and Florida, H. W. Cox, University of Florida; third district, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, Dr. J. W. Provine, Mississippi College; fourth district, Kentucky and Tennessee, Walter Hullehen, University of the South; senior vice-president, Thomas W. Atkinson, Louisiana State University; secretary and treasurer, Edward T. Holmes, Gordon Institute; executive committee, B. M. Walker, H. W. Cox, Walter Hullehen, Dr. J. W. Provine, and F. H. H. Calhoun.

President W. M. Riggs, of Clemson College, President Thos. D. Boyd, of Louisiana State University, and Prof. H. D. Phillips, of the University of the South, were appointed as a committee on rules.

A committee consisting of twenty-eight members, headed by Prof. Walter Hullehen, of Sewanee, was appointed to investigate the credit work given in all institutions in S. I. A. A. territory, with a view of determining whether the institution should be ranked as a college or a preparatory school.

KAPPA SIGMA THANKSGIVING DINNER.

On the evening of Saturday, December 9, the Kappa Sigma Fraternity were hosts to a representative group of students and members of the faculty. Among the members of the faculty present were, Dr. C. C. Thach, Colonel Rowell, Professors Patrick, Brown, Rutland and Shi. Among the students were representatives from other fraternities, a large sprinkling of non-fraternity men, and members of clubs and other college organizations. The gathering gave a good exhibition of the democratic feeling of the Auburn student body. That naive kind of snobbishness that often is supposed to characterize the Greeks at Auburn is a mere wraith of memory.

This "at home" was in fact a belated Thanksgiving feast, but comes very appropriately on the eve of lenten examination days. Boxes from home bringing the usual turkey with sauces and dressing, fruit cakes and others, quail from Alabama sedge fields and fruits of balmy Florida gave a delicious solidity to the enjoyment of the occasion; and the aroma of well chosen cigars mingled cosily with the airy humor of the after-dinner satisfaction. Being the first entertainment of consequence since the completion of the new chapter house, the reception was a sort of house-warming for the Kappa Sigma's. The picnic, dinner-on-the-ground informality preserved a zest that banquets and formal dinners cannot give. It goes without saying that the guests lingered loth to be the first to break the charm of a delightful evening.

PROFESSOR ROSS SPEAKS BEFORE THE WIRT LITERARY SOCIETY.

Mr. President, and Fellow Members of the Wirt Society:

I assure you that it gives me very great pleasure to be with you tonight. I had lost sight of the fact that the birthday of Wirt fell during this part of the year. I do not believe that, when I was a member of the Society, it was celebrated in such a formal way, but I think that it is quite an excellent idea to celebrate the memory of such a great man, and a man after whom this Society has been named.

I am glad to know that the Society is still in a flourishing condition, that so

much interest is being taken in its meetings and its proceedings, and that such a large number of you are taking advantage of the opportunity that is offered you to cultivate the art of debating and public speaking.

Judging from what one of the members has said, I suppose I am expected to go back into the remote past, of which I was a part, and tell you something about the earlier history of the Society. Possibly I can tell you something of interest about the early history of the Society as I remember it and as it has been told to me by some other members.

Society Organized in 1859.

Something has been said about the time when the Society was first organized. I believe that it was formed in 1859, because that date was engraved on a large sized reproduction of the badge of the Society, which occupied the center of the platform on which the president of the Society sat.

Now in the old college building the literary societies occupied a very large part of this top floor. Each Society had a suite of rooms running across the entire building in this direction (east and west) and extending in this direction (north and south) probably fifty feet. There were two rooms, one an auditorium for the meetings and one a library. When the societies were organized the college did not have a Library and the members of the societies secured contributions from various people of a large number of books. It is possible that the present college library contains a large number of these books. I know that quite a number of these were transferred. I cannot say that they are still in existence. The Wirt Library had something like three or four thousand volumes. The halls were well furnished, indeed.

In the seventies contributions were secured from former members and the halls were made to look very attractive. They had very elegant curtains, nice furniture, carpets and had many fine pictures on the walls, including a large picture of William Wirt. I remember that at one time our Society boasted very much of its superiority over our Websterian rivals for the reason that we had a very large chandelier for which we paid \$80.00. Though we bought it and boasted of having it, it was a well-known fact that it was not paid for for quite a while.

Conditions After the War.

I know very little about the history of the Society prior to the war, even from what members have told me. Rev. Dr. Glenn, of Atlanta, who was in Auburn about a year ago could no doubt tell you some interesting things about the earlier history of the Society. After the war the College, then known as the East Alabama Male College, as you can see from the corner stone of this building, was very

small in numbers. The Society halls were in very bad condition. There were two professors connected with the faculty, both from Virginia, who greatly encouraged student society activities. The one who took an especial interest in the work of the Wirt Literary Society was Prof. W. C. Stubbs, who is still living in New Orleans. He took a great deal of interest in seeing that the Wirt Hall was properly equipped, lighted, etc., and attended quite a number of meetings; the other, Prof. Hogg, interested himself in the work of the Websterian Society to the extent that he secured a life-sized portrait of Daniel Webster from a Webster Society in Massachusetts. This picture was a very expensive one and was hung directly over the president's desk.

As I said, the halls were very commodious. They had good libraries, and practically all students belonged to either one society or the other. At the beginning of the year, there was great rivalry among the members of the societies as to how many members each society could secure. At that time we met on Friday night, there were no student activities such as athletics, picture shows, etc., to compete with the societies. When I first belonged to the Society there were no fraternities in college and a very large part of the interest of the students was centered in the Literary Societies. The membership was quite large and the men would turn out in very large numbers. Many of them would go up sometimes an hour in advance of the meeting, get together, form quartettes and sing and tell jokes and stories until it was time for the meeting to be called to order.

We had some very lengthy debates. The program committee would very often put on too large a number of debaters. The two leading debaters would choose sides and place some of the big guns down at the end of the line to close the debate. At the time, I joined the Society there were two very good speakers. I remember that they were on many of the debates and the members of our society boasted of the prowess of these debaters. They would always be chosen on opposite sides and the debates would very often run to quite a late hour, because, of course, a certain number would be allowed to come back in rejoinder. I think the president in those days decided which side had the better of the argument. I remember I was president one year, and I felt that the responsibility was entirely too heavy.

Constitution and By-Laws.

Something has been said about the By-Laws, and Constitution, and the fact has been mentioned that the original Constitution and By-Laws was destroyed by fire in 1887. I was away at the time of the fire, but came back on a visit and was here at the opening of college

when the societies planned to resume operations again. Some of the members came to me and said, "Can you help us out with the Constitution and By-Laws?" There was quite a long initiation ceremony used in the initiation of new members. There was quite a little address the President gave them as to the responsibilities they were about to assume, how they were to live up to the demands of the society, loyalty, etc. As I had been President for a while, had gone through the ceremony a number of times, and had heard the same thing repeated many times, I was able to reproduce a good deal of it. I think I can repeat the old preamble now. From all this, the candidate, when he was being sworn in, was very much impressed with the solemnity of the occasion and with the responsibilities that he was assuming.

Something has been said about the badge of the Society. At that time there was a pin. It was a very pretty pin of its kind, and was designed by Dr. Alexander Means. The badge had a certain symbolism which was explained in the Constitution. There was a cross in the center, an arch over the top, a lyre at the bottom and a star over the top of all. It made a very pretty pin of its kind. There may be several in existence. There is one I think I know of.

We have had quite a large number of men to go from the societies who have distinguished themselves in the various walks of life. One gentleman in particular who has reached a very distinguished position in his profession is the Hon. Frank C. Dillard, who was here at Commencement last June. He has been a speaker at Commencement on one or two occasions, first as Alumni orator and then as a Commencement orator. He is a man of distinction in his profession, being an able lawyer in Texas. A number of years ago he became connected with the Union Pacific lines as Chief Counsel of the Traffic Department. He was also Chief Counsel and Vice-President of the Rock Island system, comprising something over 8,000 miles of road. Finding this life in Chicago as a Railroad Counsel entirely too strenuous, he decided to round out his life in a quiet way, and returned to Sherman, Texas, where he is still living. He is not yet an old man, and can, if he gets back again, tell us some very interesting things about the history of the society.

Considerable Rivalry Between Societies.

When I first became connected with the society, nearly everybody in college was a member of one or the other societies, and the average attendance was usually very good. There was considerable rivalry between the societies as to which of the two was better attended, the number of members enrolled and in attendance being regarded as a criterion

of the relative prosperity of the two societies. I remember that on one occasion, at the beginning of the year, one of the members of our sister society was reported to have charged that this society was "dead" and did not have any life in its meetings. The president and members of the society got busy and initiated about twenty-five new members at the next meeting. A large number of the old members were also on hand and the results of this meeting were considered a conclusive answer to the charge that the society was dead. If the truth were told, however, there was some basis at that time for the criticism made by the opposition society, and thereafter more life and activity characterized our meetings.

When I was connected with the society, there were no strictly inter-society debates, but there were one or two public debates each year in which both the affirmative and negative debaters consisted of representatives chosen from the two societies.

Mock trials were also held as often as once or twice a year, suits for breach of promise being the favorite type of legal proceedings that were instituted on such occasions. Some member was usually arrayed in female attire to represent the lady in the case, and as much amusement was afforded those present, the attendance was quite large when such moot courts were held.

As previously stated, members usually attended in good numbers and I have sometimes seen 75 or more men at a meeting. Later on the members began to decline, but those who remained faithful evinced so much interest in the meetings that the decreased attendance did not seriously affect the life of the society for some years.

Literary Societies Give Valuable Training.

It might be superfluous for me to say anything about the advantages of literary society work. As a matter of fact, it was one of the greatest educational agencies in my whole college career. It enabled me to think on my feet and to express my ideas at least in some sort of way, so that even when called on unexpectedly I could at least say something. I do not consider anything else of more value than the training I secured in the literary society. I am very glad to be back with you again tonight and note that such interest is being taken in the work. The men of note today who have gone out from this society should be an inspiration to all of you. One man in particular whom I remember was Mr. Frank Peabody, of Columbus, Ga. He was a very prominent lawyer, and was a relative of George Peabody, of New York, who made a donation to our library. I could mention a great many more who have gone out from this society who will tell you

that they owe a great deal of their success as speakers to the training they received in oratory and debate while members of this Society.

I assure you that I am very glad to be with you and extend my best wishes for this society's future.

PERSONALS

One of the most recent young graduates to become a life member of the Alumni Association is Mr. H. C. Nixon, of Merrillton, Ala. After graduating at Auburn in 1909 Mr. Nixon attended the University of Chicago, where he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1914. During the summer and fall Mr. Nixon pursued research work in gathering material for his thesis, "The Farmer's Movement in Alabama," which will lead to the degree Doctor of Philosophy.

H. G. Carter, '14, is in the Engineering Department of the Central of Georgia Railroad, with headquarters at Savannah, Ga.

Mr. S. C. Daniel, '09, is City Engineer of Port Gibson, Miss.

Mr. William L. Newberry, '08, is District Manager for the State of Kentucky

of the Industrial Loan and Guaranty Co.

Mr. E. L. Miller, '05, is interested in the Houston Tank Co., manufacturers of cypress tanks. He resides at 1817 West street, Houston, Texas.

Mr. Wm. F. Ward, '04, is with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and is in charge of all beef cattle investigations.

Mr. R. D. Webb, '97, a former secretary of the Alumni Association, is now General Secretary of the South Carolina Sunday School Association. His office is at 802 Chapman Building, Spartanburg, S. C.

Mr. C. R. Allen, '10, is in the brokerage business at Charleston, S. C., and his office is near the docks of the Clyde Steamship Line.

Mr. B. A. Wooten, '11, is studying at Columbia University.

Mr. Ed Bragg, ex-'08, is in the gents' furnishing goods business at Auburn, the firm style-name being The Varsity Shop.

William Ward, 10, and Haskel Martin, 11, are practicing architecture at Greenville, S. C.

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